

be made. Clearly you were stating something more than just what the law required you to do as a - -

Secretary Babbitt: No. That's really all I was stating.

Chairman Thompson: Did Mr. —

Secretary Babbitt: That's the whole point.

Chairman Thompson: In effect, Mr. Ickes wanted you to do your job?

Secretary Babbitt: That is correct. That is exactly correct.

Chairman Thompson: Kind of like saying Mr. Ickes wanted you to pay your Federal income taxes by April 15.

Secretary Babbitt: Yes.<sup>670</sup>

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Sen. Collins: How would that have prompted Mr. Eckstein to end the meeting and exit your office, which was your goal? I do not understand if all you were saying is I have to do my job, Harold Ickes expects me to do my job. Why would that prompt him to end the meeting which was your goal?

Secretary Babbitt: My intention was to say, look, this decision has got to be made. It is overdue, and now is the time to make it.<sup>671</sup>

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Chairman Thompson: Did Mr. Ickes tell you to make a decision?

Secretary Babbitt: He did not.

Chairman Thompson: . . . And you told Mr. Eckstein that he told you to make the decision?

Secretary Babbitt: I did not.

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<sup>670</sup>*Id.* at 245.

<sup>671</sup>*Id.* at 266-67.